

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Scott P. Brown
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

CTIA – The Wireless Association®, which represents wireless ecosystem, including carriers of all sizes and their suppliers, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products, strongly supports S. 1791, the Democratizing Access to Capital Act of 2011. This legislation would make it easier for entrepreneurs, including those creating the next big wireless product or service, to use the internet to obtain capital from a wide range of ordinary investors, commonly referred to as “crowdfunding.”

Today, the United States is the world’s clear leader in wireless broadband and continues to grow, even in the midst of these economic times. For the first time in history, the semi-annual survey conducted by CTIA in June 2011 shows the number of wireless subscriber connections (322.9 million) has surpassed the population (315.5 million), which means the wireless penetration rate in the U.S. is 102.4%. New and innovative wireless products and services, such as smartphones and tablets and the multitude of available applications, are driving this demand.

Many of these applications are created by small businesses, some even in garages or dorm rooms. S. 1791 provides reasonable exemptions from outdated Securities and Exchange Commission legal hurdles that restrict entrepreneurs’ access to capital, while instituting protections for investors that will build confidence in new, innovative capital raising methods. Start-ups and entrepreneurs, particularly in the wireless industry, have endless potential to create the most cutting-edge and innovative products and services that consumers have come to expect and enjoy, as well as create new jobs. For these reasons, CTIA strongly supports S.1791 and any other efforts to reduce barriers to capital formation for job-creating entrepreneurs whose creativity can help ensure that the U.S. maintains its position as the world’s wireless leader.

Sincerely,



Steve Largent